

The Bethel Courier.

VOLUME XXII, NUMBER 4

WINTER 1998

BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

As of 31 December 1998, nearly \$300,000 has been raised from cash, stock, gifts, pledges, grants, and challenges from over 200 donors.

Corporate Gifts

Northeast Bank \$25,000
Exxon Corporation \$1000

Foundation Grants

Betterment Fund \$75,000 (Challenge)
Bingham Trust \$10,000
Davis Family Foundation \$25,000
Simmons Foundation \$7,500

Room Naming Opportunities

(\$25,000 or more)
Robert and Janet Spidell, Anaheim, CA
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Dr. Nathaniel Tuckerman True Associates

(Donors of \$10,000 or more)
Walter and Carolyn Hatch, Bethel
Michael S. Stowell, Lovettsville, VA

Enoch Foster Partners

(Donors of \$5000 to \$9999)
Anonymous (2)
Robert Goodwin
Grantham, Mayo, Van Otterloo & Co. LLC, Boston, MA
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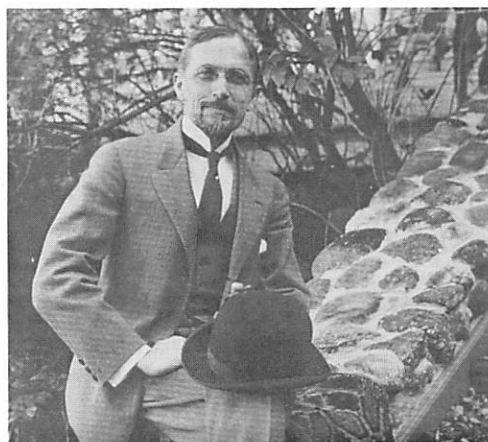
Agnes Hastings Straw Circle

(Donors of \$2500 to \$4999)
Kenneth and Gwyneth Bohr, Bethel
Roxanne Twitchell Sly, Booklin
Dexter and Janet Stowell, Bethel

Dr. William B. Lapham Honor Society

(Donors of \$1000-\$2499)
Alan and June Abbott, Bethel
Alvin and Lee Barth, Bethel
Bethel Rotary Club in Honor of Roger R. Conant and
John B. Head

(continued on page 2)



Dr. John George Gehring (1857-1932)

SOCIETY ACQUIRES BETHEL LEAGUE AND THE GEHRING CLINIC ALBUMS

Editor's Note: The Bethel League and the Gehring Clinic albums are two recent donations to the Society. The Bethel League album came from Heather Hanley of North Miami Beach, FL via William Ullman of Mason, Maine, and the gift of the Gehring Clinic photo album was made possible by an anonymous donor. Both are very significant additions to the collections of the Society.

The Bethel League developed from a small group of Dr. John G. Gehring's former patients, who formed an organization called the Bethel League in 1914. As the first notice recorded, the purpose of the organization was to "give an opportunity to its members to return to Bethel once every year, at a given time, for the purpose of renewing the peculiarly warm and sincere friendship which exists between Dr. Gehring and his patients, and also among many of the patients themselves."

For those unfamiliar with Dr. Gehring and his pioneering work with persons with "nervous disorders" it is important to digress a bit to provide some background on Gehring and what his presence meant to the Bethel area in the 1890s and in the early years of the 20th century. Born in Cleveland, Ohio in 1857, he graduated from Western Reserve Medical School in 1885 and practiced medicine briefly there. A nervous breakdown caused him to head to the Southwest for a change to regain his health. While there, he met a disabled engineer, George B. Farnsworth and his wife, the former Susie Marian True, the first child of the second marriage of Dr. Nathaniel Tuckerman True, founder of Gould Academy, first historian of Bethel, and a leader in the scientific agriculture movement in Maine.

(continued on page 3)

(Capital Campaign, continued from page 1)

Ted and Kitty Chadbourne, Bethel
Stephen and Lynda Chandler, Brunswick
Geoffrey and Martha Fuller Clark, Portsmouth, NH
Howard and Virginia Cole, Bethel
Dana and Barbara Douglass, Bethel
Colwyn and Judith Haskell, Bethel
William and Susan Herlihy, Bethel
Dick and Lorrie Hoeh, Bethel
Jane and Richard Hosterman, West Bethel
Rep. Arlan and Eleanor Jodrey, Bethel
Rebecca Kendall, Bethel
Alden and Mabel Kennett, Bethel
Thomas H. Mitchell, Culver City, CA
Helen Morton, Bethel
George and Danna Nickerson, Bethel
Dean and Priscella Walker, Kittery
Stephen and Margaret Wight, Newry

21st Century Club

(Donors of \$999 in honor of the Society's occupancy of the Foster-Straw House in 1999)

Stanley R. Howe, Bethel

Robert Chapman Founders

(Donors of \$500 to \$998)

Anonymous (2)

Allan and Mary Alice Hastings Bancroft, Paris
Barbara H. Brown, South Paris
Lincoln and Suzanne Fiske, Bethel
John and Julia Fox, West Newton, MA
George and Virginia Hastings Gamble, Bethel
Robert W. and Betty Ann Hastings, Bethel
Ronald and Marguerite Kendall, Bethel
Roy Killgore, Guadalupe, CA
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David and Ann Hastings Morton, Hanover
Persis Post, Bethel
Martin Silver, Norway

Friends of the Robinson House

(Donors of up to \$499)

Robert Albota, Ottawa, Ontario; Esther Anderson, Brockton, MA; Ernest and Alberta Angevine, Bethel; Al and Mary Alice Bancroft, Paris Hill; Bradley and Judith Barker, Bethel; Jean Barker, Delray Beach, FL; John and Mary Beth Bayerlein, Bethel; D.A. Bean Enterprises, Bethel; Bessie Bennett, Bethel; Randall H. Bennett, Bethel; A.W. and Florine Bowden, Bethel; Caroline Brown, Colorado Spring, CO; Norma Buck, Oxford; Donald and Mary Calderwood, Mesa, AZ; Cathy Canavan, Cool, CA; Roberta Chandler, Lovell; Ethel Chapman, West Bethel; Rosalind Chapman, Bethel; Donald M. Christie, Jr., M.D., Poughkeepsie, NY; Norman and Sylvia Clanton, Bethel; Stanley Coolidge, Oxford; Allen and Jacquelyn Cressey, Chelmsford, MA; Eva Conroy, Auburn; Richard and Carole Duplessis, Bethel; Kathryn Eames, Cape Elizabeth; Robert and Mary Eichel Raymond Fales, Waitsfield, VT; Jane Fife, Salt Lake City, Utah; John and Julia Fox, West Newton, MA; Allan Fraser, Bethel; Doris Fraser, Bethel; George and Virginia Gamble, Bethel; Marion Gates, Ann Arbor, MI; Gordon and Mary Gillies, Hebron; Wilma Gorman, Bethel; Anne Grasso, Providence, RI; Rupert and Suzanne Grover, Norway; Carolyn and Tom Harrison, Portland; Michael and Leslie Hathaway, Conway, NH;

(Capital Campaign)

Florence Hastings, Bethel; Robert W. and Betty Ann Hastings, Bethel; Clayton and Helen Heath, Norway; Pamela S. Heydon, Wilton, CT; Scott Heydon, Shaker Heights, OH; Elizabeth Hines, Brooklin; Ruth Holmes, Bryant Pond; Adolf U. Honkala, Midlothian, VA; Kathy McLeod Hooke, Bethel; Vernon Ingraham, Wareham, MA; Charlotte K. Johnson, Westford, MA; Ardith A. Kelly, Salinas, CA; Earlon and Mary Keniston, Bethel; Lois Kilroy, Bethel; John Kubach, Bethel; Daisy LeClair, Bethel; Louise Lincoln, Bethel; James Locke, Topeka, KS; Elizabeth Lord, Bethel; Michael Lovejoy, Norway; M/M Peter Lunder/The Lunder Foundation, Waterville; James and Ethel Mann, Lunenburg, MA; Mary March, Bridgton; Nancy H. Mercer, Bethel; Leonard E. and Renee Minsky Charitable Trust, Bangor; Joann C. Mooney, London, UK; David and Ann Morton, Hanover; Marvin and Tineka Ouwinga, Bethel; Richard and Wendy Penley, Bethel; Lillian Perkins, Bethel; Betty Barlow Prescott, Bangor; Eleanor Pugliese, Bethel; Dr. David Richards, Skowhegan; Beatrice Ritter, Torrington, CT; John and Lisa Robbins, Richmond; Dr. Ned Robertson, Cleveland Heights, OH; Joanne Thurston Peabody Stewart, Portland; Persis Suddeth, Bowie, MD; Bertha Stevens, Bethel; Don and Peggy Tobin, Bandera, TX; Mary Valentine, Bethel; Mary Wheeler, Bethel; Elizabeth Delano Whiteman, Philadelphia, PA; Ruth Wight, Bethel; Willard and Sylvia Wight, Newry; Eleanor Wilson, Bryant Pond.

Twitchell Family Challenge

Mrs. Roxanne Twitchell Sly has issued a challenge to all Twitchell descendants to join her in contributing enough to have one of the rooms named after the Twitchell family. The minimum price of a room is \$25,000. Anyone wishing to learn more about this challenge is encouraged to call the society (800) 824-2910 or use E-Mail: history@bdc.bethel.me.us.

Please send all tax deductible contributions to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217.

ROBINSON HOUSE

The present "Elms" of Bethel Inn stands beside the current Society headquarters, the Dr. Moses Mason House on Broad Street. In September 1997, the Society launched an ambitious project to acquire, renovate and provide for operations of this building as a proposed addition to its facilities. Named for the original owner of the house O'Neil Robinson (1797-1867), the building would then be known as the Robinson House. This would provide critically needed space for exhibits, expanded museum store and craft operations, more adequate research room and collection storage as well as an education room for all ages. This addition would also allow the Society to expand its focus to become a truly Northern New England institution and establish its Regional History Center with programming, conferences, publications, exhibits, lectures, etc. relating to that region.

JOIN THOSE LISTED ABOVE IN HELPING TO SECURE THE FUTURE OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY! PLEASE SEND YOUR TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION NOW!

(Gehring, continued from page 1)

Gehring returned with the Farnsworths to Bethel in the spring of 1887. Mrs. Farnsworth's husband died in April and her father in May of that year. She was left with a young son, George B. Farnsworth, Jr. The widowed Mrs. Farnsworth married Dr. Gehring the following year and moved into her late father's house at the end of Broad Street. This structure burned in 1896 and another home was built near the site of the original residence.

At first, Gehring did not practice medicine, but came to be influenced by a Portland doctor, Frederick Gerrish, who had studied abroad and focused on the treatment of nervous disorders through hypnotism. Due to his connection with Gerrish, Gehring appears to have become acquainted with a number of European doctors pioneering in psychotherapy for the emotionally distraught. In 1895, Gehring and his wife opened their home to provide therapy for neurotic personalities. Thus was born the Gehring Clinic which soon attracted a national clientele to Bethel. Gehring possessed a fascinating personality and his wife was a superb organizer; they made a remarkable pair who left a lasting impression on many of those who came seeking assistance. Gehring's treatment was simple enough. By organizing lives around wholesome activities that left little time for brooding and supplying a dose of psychotherapy when necessary, he turned many lives around. His fame spread and a number of the famous came for his help. The well-known essayist, Max Eastman (1883-1969), for example, gave Dr. Gehring credit for saving his life. The clinic lasted into the 1920s when Gehring's failing health caused it to close forever.

The first officers of the League were Lula W. Sherman of Rushing, New York, president, William J. Upson, Bethel, secretary, and William Bingham II, Cleveland, Ohio, treasurer. Annual dues were set at \$1. The date of February 12 was selected for the first reunion as stated in the invitation carefully preserved in the album "because of the unusual attractions which Bethel presents the visitor at this time of the year: i.e. skating, tobogganning, skiing, etc. and also because of the wonderful exhilarating quality of the air--a fact which contributes an especial benefit to even a short vacation spent among the beautiful snowclad hills of Bethel."

This reunion was open to all those "who have spent any time at all at Bethel under Dr. Gehring's skillful care, and all those who have 'learned their lesson' so well that there is no need to return there as patients, might be glad of an excuse to go back for the pleasure of renewing old friendships, many of which have proved to be the very best and warmest of their lives, chief among them, of course, that of Dr. Gehring himself."

From the materials included in the album, one can gain much insight into what happened at the first reunion in February 1915. More than twenty attended the first reunion, which largely focused upon the banquet held at the Bethel Inn on February 12. The decorations were elaborate with the dining room banked with evergreens and hung with American flags. The tables, shaped in the form of a heart, and covered with crimson cloth suggesting the approach of Valentine's Day, underscored the esteem in which the Gehrings were held by those attending. The electric lights were encased in red tissue paper to create a soft, rosy glow to the room and contribute to "cozy warmth and geniality." The evergreen boughs reminded those present of "the proximity to the glorious Maine forest." On

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Since moving to Bethel in 1987, I have seen the Society do a lot of impressive things and get a lot of compliments and congratulations, but none more so than our New Year's Bethel celebration. This was truly a landmark event, both for the Society and for the whole community. From the initial lighted vehicle parade and the igniting of the bonfire, to the closing midnight fireworks, it was thoroughly enjoyed by all, to the delight of the Society and community volunteers who worked long hours to make it happen. Needless to say, no one was happier than Society Trustee Susan Herlihy, who had the original inspiration for the event and led the efforts all the way.

In addition to volunteer time, we are most appreciative of the financial sponsorships provided by area businesses and individuals, which made it possible to engage top quality professional entertainers.

The favorable comments we have received from both community residents and visitors confirms that we should establish this as an annual event as the 4th of July community picnic and brass band concert have become. This will further strengthen our long-standing role of providing festivals and other cultural activities for our area.

Planning has already started for this coming New Year's. If you have ideas for new things that would add to the fun, please let us know. And plan to be there yourself!

Walter Hatch

(Gehring)

one of the tables was a modest evergreen tree decorated with small Valentines.

The menu for the evening is also carefully preserved. It included grapefruit cocktail, essence of chicken, olives, celery, boiled Maine salmon hollandaise, potatoes duchess, broiled sweetbreads with fresh mushrooms, roast native chicken with jelly, mashed potatoes, baked squash, lettuce and tomato salad, vanilla ice cream, assorted cakes, and coffee.

After dinner, the president of the League, Mrs. Sherman, presented a silver loving cup to the Gehrings. There is an engraving of this cup included in the album. The inscription on the it reads as follows: "Presented to Dr. & Mrs. John George Gehring by Members of the Family as an Expression of Gratitude and Affection, February 12, 1915." Dr. Gehring responded to the gift with what was described by the secretary as "a touching and charming speech."

A toast of hot milk was made to the Gehrings "as a gentle reminder of 'cure' days."

There was a tobogganing party the next day followed by a dance at the Bethel Inn featuring the "Portland Fancy" in the evening.

The final day saw a snowshoe party, walks and sleighing as chief diversions followed by a church service in the evening. The weather was ideal although cold and "all agreed that it was good to be alive, well, and back in the 'Homestead' town again under delightful circumstances."

(continued on page 4)

SOCIETY SALES DEPARTMENT

The Society maintains a selection of modestly priced gifts and historical publications. They may be ordered at the prices listed below. Maine residents must include 5.5% sales tax. Orders under \$10 should include \$1 for postage and handling; those over \$10 but under \$20 should include \$2 and all those over \$20 should add \$3 to cover mailing expenses.

Tile

Moses Mason House \$3.50

Stationery (package of ten sheets and ten envelopes) \$2 each

(Moses Mason House, Bethel Railroad Station, Summer House, Bethel Covered Bridge)

Booklets

Dr. Moses Mason and His House \$1

Molly Ockett \$2

Maps and Atlases

1880 Map of Bethel Hill \$2

1880 Map of Town of Bethel \$2

1878 Bird's Eye View of Bethel Hill \$1

1858 Atlas of Oxford County \$9.95

T-Shirts

Moses Mason Museum (Adult, S, M, L, XL) \$8

Moses Mason Museum (Child, 4-6-8-10-12-14) \$8

Sudbury Canada 1768-1796 (Adults, S, M, L, XL) \$8

Sudbury Canada 1768-1796 (Child, 4-6-8-10-12-14) \$8

Post Cards: Dr. Moses Mason, Agnes Mason, Moses Mason House 10 cents each

Tote Bags (Moses Mason Museum logo) small \$7.50 large \$11.50

Placemat, 4 season, set of four Bethel scenes \$7.50

Books

Adams & Glatz, *Young Wives Tales* \$19.95 Paper

Barnes, *Maine Life: The Photographs of N.C. Maxim* \$16.99 Paper

Bean, *East Bethel Road* \$50 Cloth

Bennett, *Bethel, Maine: An Illustrated History* \$39.95 Paper

Bennett, *The White Mountains* \$14.99 Paper

Bennett, *The Mt. Zircon Moon Tide Spring* \$19.95 Paper

Crosby, *From an Old Leather Trunk* \$5 Cloth

Crosby, *I Was A Summer Boarder* \$5 Cloth

Dickerman, *A Guide to Crawford Notch* \$12.95 Paper

Fraser, *A History of Maine Made Automobiles* \$34.95 Cloth \$24.95 Paper

Gove, J.E. *Henry's Logging Railroads* \$25.95 Paper

Grumet, *Northeastern Indian Lives 1632-1816* \$19.95 Paper

Hathaway, *Everything Happened Around the Switchboard* \$13.95 Paper

Heywood, *History of Upton, Maine* \$20 Paper

Howe, *Concise History of the Maine State Grange* \$20 Cloth

Hubka, *Big House, Little House, Back House Barn: The Connected Farm Buildings of New England* \$24.95 Paper

Hutchinson, *The Rumford Falls & Rangeley Lakes Railroad* \$20

Killgore, *Descendants of Joseph Killgore* \$65 Cloth

Lapham, *History of Bethel, Maine 1768-1890* \$45 Cloth

Lapham, *History of Woodstock, Maine* \$19.95 Cloth

Lindberg, *Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research* \$15

Little, *American Decorative Wall Painting 1700-1850* \$9.95 Paper

Maine the Pine Tree State: *From Prehistory to the Present* \$29.95 Paper

McKee, *Historic American Covered Bridges* \$24.95

Mills, *The Genealogy of Samuel & Frances (Pembroke) Mills Family* \$5 Paper

Mitchell, *Our House: It's History* \$24.95

Paris, *Maine: Second Two Hundred Years* \$45 Cloth

Parkman, *The Gould Academy Story* \$9.95 Paper

Proceedings of the Steamship College \$25 Paper

Russell, *Indian New England Before the Mayflower* \$15.95 Paper

Shirreffs, *The Richardson Lakes* \$29.95 Paper

Spaulding, *Historical Relics of the White Mountains* \$12.95 Paper

Stillinger, *Historic Deerfield* \$19.95 Cloth

Tolles, *Grand Resort Hotels of the White Mountains* \$50 Cloth

True, *History of Gorham, New Hampshire* \$24.95 Paper

Visser, *Field Guide to New England Barns and Farm Buildings* \$19.95 Cloth

Whitney, *The World of C.A. Stephens* \$19.95 Paper

Wight, *Carrie, A History of Newry* \$5 Paper

Wight, *Paula, Newry Profiles* \$5 Paper

Members of the Bethel Historical Society are entitled to a 10% discount for purchases totaling \$10 or more. Please send orders to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217-0012. If the items you ordered are in stock, they will be sent by return mail. For further information, please call toll free 1-800-824-2910.

(Gehring, continued from page 3)

At the League business meeting, there was a change in officers with Mary Foulke of Richmond, Indiana, succeeding Mrs. Sherman as president and Maud Lawrence of Dover Bay, Ohio, assuming the office of vice president. Both William J. Upson and William Bingham II remained in their respective offices.

The second meeting of the League was held on September 17-20, 1915. It began with a special tea at the bungalow on Songo Pond followed by dancing at the Bethel Inn. The next evening the banquet was held at the Inn with tables decorated with larkspur and shirley poppies. The candelabra at each end were formed from birch trees which reminded those attending of their "former sawing and chopping days." (Dr. Gehring prescribed vigorous exercise as part of his regimen and one of the forms it took was sawing and splitting wood.) The loving cup presented to the Gehrings in February was also prominently displayed. The dinner menu has been preserved here and included fruit cocktail, clear green turtle soup, olives, martinis, broiled sweetbread, mushrooms, coffee frappe, filet of beef, sweet potatoes, green peas, Bethel Inn salad, vanilla ice cream, hot chocolate sauce, assorted cakes, and coffee.

Dinner was followed by remarks from several including William Bingham II and Dr. Gehring, who "spoke to us most impressively, inspiring us with fresh courage as we go forth to our various pursuits." Songs written for the occasion were sung. The assemblage then adjourned across the street to William J. Upson's "attractive little theatre," which had just been completed for a pantomime and two dances plus a charade acting out the word "Gehring."

There was another evening religious service at the Gehring drawing room and the business meeting was held the following morning at the Bethel Inn. The next reunion was scheduled for September 15-16, 1916, but it was never held and the League apparently died without any apparent reason. One can only speculate that World War I and later American participation in the conflict may have been factors in its demise.

We know much about the League since so much is preserved here, including the names of its members, who were primarily from the Northeast and Ohio, but also there was representation from Kentucky, Missouri, Wisconsin, Alabama, Georgia, Minnesota, Illinois, and California. One also listed Montreal as her place of residence. William Bingham II kept very detailed treasurer's records which are printed here. His sister Frances Payne Bolton (later a United States Congresswoman for 29 years representing the Cleveland area and stalwart friend of Maine's venerable Senator Margaret Chase Smith) contributed the album that today contains all this information as well as some outstanding calligraphy by Mary Newberry also of Cleveland, Ohio which we are so fortunate to own thanks to our generous donor.

The other album made possible by an anonymous donor must have once been at the Gehring House as it appears to be a photographic record of some of the activities of Dr. and Mrs. Gehring and the patients. Here are found a number of scenes of sawing wood on the property as well patients dressed in outlandish costumes. Some of the photos are identified so that those interested can name individuals and locations. William Bingham II appears prominently in several of the photos dressed in various outfits. He would, of course, become a major benefactor of

Gould Academy and Bethel and in Maine in general. Three Foundations, either created by him or in his memory, now perpetuate his legacy of generosity and provide funds for all kinds of worthy causes throughout the nation. Without the Gehrings, it is difficult to determine just what would have happened to this remarkable man. He expressed his gratitude to and honored them on a number of occasions. He made Bethel his home because of them. These albums provide not only insights into his life, but also into the significant contribution the Gehrings made to countless other lives around the nation. SRH

1999 MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM SCHEDULE

The Program Committee has planned a varied schedule of monthly meeting programs. Several programs on regional and Maine historians were arranged to highlight the summer exhibit on John Francis Sprague and Sprague's Journal of Maine History, which was funded by the Maine Humanities Council and is being made possible by arrangement with the L.C. Bates Museum in Hinckley.

- January 7--**"Dr. Nathaniel Tuckerman True: Local Historian," Randall H. Bennett, Curator of Collections, Bethel Historical Society
February 4--Annual Historical Video Night
March 4--"Dr. William B. Lapham: Oxford County Historian," Stanley R. Howe, Executive Director, Bethel Historical Society
April 1--"Eva M. Bean: Local Historian," Hon. Margaret Joy Tibbetts, Bethel Historical Society
May 6--"Elizabeth Ring: Maine Historian," Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., Director, Maine Historic Preservation Commission
June 3--Robinson House History and Open House
July 1--Annual Picnic at Pooh Corner Farm, Mason, Maine
August 5--"John Francis Sprague and Sprague's Journal of Maine History, Marius B. Peladeau, L.C. Bates Museum
September 2--34th Annual Meeting, Pot Luck Supper, "James Phinney Baxter: Maine Historian," Hon. Neil Rolde, York
October 7--Annual "What's It"
November 4--"Fannie Hardy Eckstorm: Maine Historian," Hon. Herbert Adams, Portland
December 2--Annual "Christmas with the Masons"

All meetings will be held at the Society's headquarters, the Dr. Moses Mason House, unless otherwise specified and will begin at 7:30 P.M. The annual picnic will begin at 6 P.M. and the Pot Luck Supper and "Christmas with the Masons" will commence at 6:30 P.M.

DIARY OF WILLIAM S. HASTINGS

(continued from the last issue)

September 1, Cool. Went to Greenwood. Played tennis. September 2, Cool. Dug spuds and pulled weeds. Also harrowed. Spuds quoted \$1.90 per bbl. September 3, Cool. Pulled weeds. September 4, Cool. Bob in Portland. Harrowed all day. Spuds \$2 per bbl. September 5, Cloudy and cool. Dressed poultry. Worked on a new floor for horse stable. September 6, Cloudy. Worked on horse stable until 9 P.M. September 7, Finished stable. Got in some 2nd crop clover. September 8, Cloudy. Greenwood. Tennis on Ed Mann's court. September 9, Cloudy. Dug potatoes. Rain at night. September 10, Cloudy and rainy. Worked for



Marian True Gehring (1850-1936) in 1888

Newton, grading his bank off. Put up load of spuds for Bob. Fish and Game Ass'n meet. September 11, Fair and warm. Bob in Portland. Built two bridges. Went after apples tonight. September 12, Fair and warm. September 13, Cloudy. Threshed for John. First hard frost, 27 deg. September 14, Fair. Went to Bethel in a.m. Cut ensilage for Ceylon in p.m. September 15, Rain all day. Greenwood. Kenyon left for his home. September 16, Clear and cool. Butchered a hog. Picked and cut yellow corn for Farwell. Frost. September 17, Clear and cool. Got in Farwell's ensilage, 39 loads. Picnic supper on Farwell Hill. September 18, Bob in Portland. September 20, Showers in morning. Ruth and I left for Lubec at 9:10 a.m. Went via Route 2 to Bangor. Then to Ellsworth and up the coast to Machias and Lubec. Arrived at Lubec about 5 p.m. 260 miles. Camped in West Lubec (?) in a field. Warm night. September 21, Clear and warm. Started at 6:30. Looked Lubec over and started back 7:30. Jonesport and all towns along coast. Went to Mt. Desert and Bar Harbor. Were on top of Cadillac Mt. at noon. Wonderful view! Ellsworth, Bucksport, Belfast, Rockland, Thomaston, Bath, Brunswick, Lewiston and home at 8 p.m. 370 miles. 620 for trip. September 22, Fair. Fryeburg to pick cranberries. Shower about 3:30. Hard wind. 110 miles. Uncle John came to help us dig. September 23, Fair. Started digging spuds. 96 bbls. September 24, Fair in a.m. Rain in p.m. 38 bbls. September 25, Fair. Pulled weeds and stacked bean, etc. Bob in Portland. September 26, Fair and warm. Dug. 134 bbl. Crop is pretty good, about 300 bu. per acre. September 27, Cloudy. Rain at 3:30, 109 bbl. Put up a load for Bob. Rainy night. September 28, Rainy day. "Line storm." Bethel with butter and fowl, etc. Car fixed. Bob in Portland. September 29, Fair and warm. Went to Conroy place for crabapples. East Bethel School reunion. I was elected president of the Alumni Ass's. Shux! September 30, Fair and cool. Dug Crow Piece. Grassy and tough. 88 bbl. October 1, Fair and warm. Same job. Hard digging, 68 bbl. October 2, Cloudy and cold. Wet. Hard digging, 71 bbl. Bob in Portland. Furnace fire. October 3, Cloudy, cold and showery. Digging is a little better. Heavy frost. 92 bbl. today. October 4, Fair. Digging. 77 bbl. October 5, Fair. Digging. 93 bbl. Broke a gear on digger. October 6, Fair. Went to Greenwood and up to Bill's feldspar mine. October 7, Fair. Hauled wood, etc. No repairs. October 8, Fair. Put up load of spuds. Repairs for digger came. Sick with a cold. October 9, Fair. Feel bet-

(continued on page 6)

ter. Bob in Portland. Spuds 80-75 cents per bu. retail. Digging seed in home field. 162 bbls. Farwells helping us. October 10, Fair. Digging on Henry piece. Dug 2 acres. 190 bbl. October 11, Fair. Dug 171 bbl. October 12, Fair. Dug 1/2 day. 57 bbl. October 13, Fair and warm. Went around thru 13 mile woods. Nice trip. October 14, Fair and warm. Dug 129 bbl. Finished Crow piece. October 15, Fair and windy. Hauled load of wood to Gramp Crockett. October 16, Fair and warm. Dug John's 1/2 acre. 55 bags. Finished digging our spuds. 4700 bu. this year. October 17, Fair and warm. Sawed wood and put up spuds. October 18, Fair in morning. Went to So. Paris to Farm Bureau annual meeting. Bob elected president. Swett [osteopath] worked on my back. Shower in p.m. First rain since Oct. 1st. Getting dry. October 19, Fair and warm. Spread ashes, dressed hens, housed mower. Bethel in p.m. October 20, Fair and warm. Leaves are nearly gone. Greenwood. Tennis. October 21, Fair and warm. Bill Yates shot a bear. October 22, Cloudy and rainy by spells. Hauling and spreading manure. Got a hind quarter of bear meat from Bill. Nice meat! October 23, Cloudy and cool. Rain. Spreading manure. October 24, Windy and cooler. Snow squalls. Finished spreading 69 loads. October 25, Cool. Put up potatoes. Norway in p.m. Got ready for hunting trip. October 26, Cloudy and windy. Up at 3:30 a.m. Started for Sebois country at 6 a.m. Went via Route 2 to Bangor, Mattawaumkeag, Patten, Shin Pond, Crommetts. 253 miles. Arrived at 4 p.m. Stayed over night. Herb Noyes, Henry Morgan, Edgar Morgan, Dad and myself. October 27, Cold and fair. Hiked in 10 miles to Sebois farm and tented. Crommetts tote team toted our outfit. Set up tent and cut wood. Weather warmed up. October 28, Warm and fair. Herb got a small deer before breakfast in the field. I hunted all day but no luck. New camp stove works fine. October 29, Warm, cloudy in a.m., fair in p.m. Dad and I got a deer apiece in the field. Early, too dark to see sights, my first shot at 11 rods hit the doe right between the eyes. Dad shot the skipper plumb center in the neck. He and I went to Scraggly Lake, 5 miles and return. I shot a partridge thru the neck. October 30, Warm and fair. Too warm to hunt and blow flies are thick. No deer today. Shot a weasel, at 3 rods, in the head. There are some bear around here. One sings to us some nights. October 31, warm and cloudy. Saw 3 deer but couldn't get a shot. Swamps are thick and no roads. Shot another partridge in the neck. Heard a moose call to her calf. November 1, Warm and cloudy. No deer today. Moose are thick around here. Tracks are numerous in the swamps. Shot a rabbit in the head. Herb just missed his foot when his shotgun discharged accidentally. November 2, Warm and misty. Shot another partridge thru neck. Broke camp at 10. Crommetts at 1:15. Loaded and started at 4 from Patten. First 40 miles thick fog. Bangor at 7 p.m. Newport 8. Home at 11:45 p.m. Nice trip. November 3, Warm and clear. Stayed home. Dad went to Fryeburg. November 4, Warm and fair. Started putting new sills under Farwell's barn. November 5, Warm and clear. Farwell's job. November 6, Warm and clear. Bob in Portland. Spuds are going up. He asked \$1.15 per bu. Working on Farwell's job. November 7, Fair and cooler. White frost. First one for 10 days at least. Finished sill job at noon. November 8, Fair and cool. Norway in p.m. November 9, Fair and cool. Dressed hens. Bethel in p.m. November 10, Cloudy and cool. Greenwood in p.m. November 11, Cloudy and warm. Warmest day on this date I ever remember. Ruth's birthday [born 1901]. Put up

spuds. November 12, Rainy and warm. Worked on woodroad. Housed machinery. Hauled sawdust. Topped vegetables. Loaded Bob for Portland. Meeting Fish and Game Ass'n at Locke Mills. November 13, Rainy and cool. Bob in Portland. Spuds \$1.15 per bu. I set banking stakes. This is the first fall I remember that I didn't cover the cellar windows from digging time until the banking was put up. Raining hard at night. November 14, Fair and warm. Hauled dirt into road. Made hoghead for head of water line. Installed heater in my car. Heater \$6.59. Thermostat 98 cents. Works fine. November 15, Fair and warm. Put in hogs head in the brook. In p.m. went to Norway for back treatment. November 16, Fair and warm. Sawed wood. Dressed poultry. Went to Bethel, Greenwood, and then Fryeburg and got Dad [where he was visiting his Hastings cousins]. November 17, Cloudy and cold. Greenwood. Put alcohol in my car radiator. Snowing at night. Nor'easter. November 18, Snowing and cold. About 10 inches. Hunted all a.m. No luck. Saw a big bear track. Put up spuds in p.m. Put on outer doors on Coburn cellar [used for potato storage]. November 19, Fair and warm. Hauled wood and sawed it. Put up spuds. November 20, Raining. Hunted from 6 a.m. to 1 a.m. No luck. Sick all afternoon. November 21, Fair and warm. Snow going. Broke into Swift Place and hauled out some 4 ft. oak. Built two bridges and cleaned out a culvert. November 22, Rainy a.m. Fair p.m. Put up a load of spuds. Went to Norway for a treatment. Road are not so good. November 23, +30, Cloudy and cold. Helped run line between Farwell's swamp lot and Chas. Reed's Hodgdon's Mt. lot. Bethel in p.m. Eggs 40 cents. Butter 35 cents. November 24, +12, Clear and cold. Ran line in a.m. Greenwood in p.m. November 25, +9, Clear and cold. Sawed wood. Put up spuds. Whist party in eve. November 26, Cloudy and warmer. Put up spuds for Farwell. Sawed wood. Fish and Game Ass'n meeting. November 27, Clear and cool. Cut gray birch on Swift Place all day. Hauled one load. November 28, Thanksgiving. Foggy and warm. Rained in p.m. and at night. Dinner at Bob's place. November 29, Cloudy in a.m. Went to Portland to have Barbara's eyes fitted. November 30, Clear and cooler. Put up spuds in a.m. Ran line between Farwell and Reed in p.m. Line was 9 1/2 deg. East of South. December 1, Ran line between Farwell's pasture and Coburn Place. Greenwood. December 2, Cutting grey birch. Bob in Fryeburg with 100 bu. spuds. \$1 per bu. December 3, Cutting birch. Put up spuds. December 4, Snowing in morning. Cutting birch in a.m. Colder'n hell. +2 and wind blowing. Built first fire in Coburn Cellar. Bob in Portland. December 5, +6, Clearing and cold. Swamped road to South side of Hardwood Ridge. Bob had horses shod. Cut birch in p.m. December 7, Cloudy and warmer. Tinkered around the place. Snow is all gone. December 8, Cloudy and warm. Went to Greenwood as usual. Filed saw. December 9, Snowing. Soldered cans and strainer. Carpenter work on litter spout at Coburn place in p.m. Snowed about 6 inches. December 10, Cutting oak. Nasty wet day. Melting and soft. Florence tipped their car over at Middle Intervale. No damage. Fish and Game meeting at L. Mills 6 o'clock supper and free pictures by Ken Lee. Fine meeting. December 11, Snowing. Ground oats and repaired in a.m. Had new front axle put in car in p.m. Old one was sprung down in middle. Slippery going. December 12, Warm and clear. December 13, Warm and clear. Portland on Xmas shopping trip. Home about 10 p.m. December 14, Cloudy. Sawed and hauled wood to Bethel for John. 2 cords. December 15, Cloudy. Home in a.m. West Paris and Greenwood in p.m. Kids to Doctor

Kay. Snowing at night. December 16, Warm and clearing. Snowed 8 in. Took Mrs. Cole to Bethel to see Dr. Tib[betts]. Roads in Bethel plowed. Greenwood unplowed. Killed 2 pigs for Farwells, 1 pig for John. December 17, Cooler. Hauled firewood from Swift place. In p.m. sawed and hauled 1 cord for John to Robertson. Colder at night. Sold Cole cow for \$70. Got 4 pigs at \$3.50 per. December 18, Cold. Sawed and split wood. December 19, Cool. Butchered a hog. Sawed wood for John. Hauled a load of grey birch. December 20, Clear and warm. Cut wood in a.m. Norway in p.m. Roads good but slippery. December 21, Cold and windy. Mended dray [wagon]. Bethel trip. December 22, Cold and windy. Greenwood and Bethel. Got xmas tree. December 23, Cold and clear. Worked in woods all day. Cut big white birch over 2 ft. on stump. Rough old tree. Will have to leave some of the trunk on the ground. December 24, Cold. Went to Bethel with potatoes. \$1 per bu. at stores. Woods in p.m. Eveleyn [Ruth's sister], Lauri and David [Tamminen] came up. December 25, Cold and clear. Christmas Day. Ruth's folks back to Greenwood. Bob is coming down with the flu. Dad is getting over it. December 26, Cold and cloudy. Hauled wood in a.m. Cut wood in p.m. Deer are quite plenty. Counted 20 beds on Deer Bench. December 27, Cold and windy. Hauled cordwood from Swift Place in a.m. Snow isn't really deep enough for a good road. December 28, +5/-2, Colder and more windy. Hauled cordwood in a.m. Yarded out some wood we left last year near the ledge in Lot 10 Range 7. Deer tracks are thick up there. Bethel with the butter and eggs. Colder and wind a gale at night. December 29, -3/-10, Cold and windy. Went to Greenwood via W. Paris and took Ma [Linnie, Ruth's mother] Cole to Bethel to Dr. Tibbetts. December 30, -13, Clear and cold. Cutting ash for Paris Mfg. Co. Have thrown some bones out in my spine and all laid up. December 31, -8, Cold and clear. Doing chores. Went to Dr. Swett and he snapped my back into place. December has been below normal in temperature and precipitation. Thus endeth the year 1935.

(to be continued in the next issue)

BOOK REVIEW

The History of Gorham, New Hampshire by Nathaniel Tuckerman True. Edited by Randall H. Bennett. (Bethel, Maine: Published by the Editor, 1998. 144 pps., illus., index. paper \$24.95). (Available in the BHS Museum Shop)

The History of Gorham, New Hampshire by Nathaniel Tuckerman True, recently edited and published by Randall H. Bennett, Curator of Collections at the Bethel Historical Society, is an interesting and well-organized book on the settlement and development of the town.

The original history by Dr. True was written in the early 1880s as a series in the *Mountaineer*, a newspaper published in Gorham and owned by a former student of True's at Gould Academy in Bethel, V.V. Twitchell. Mr. Bennett has collected the articles and arranged them in a coherent and interesting way, making connections as necessary. Dr. True, in addition to being a medical doctor, was an educator and a nature lover; he was also particularly interested in the Indian culture. The Indians had a thriving business along the Androscoggin River, canoeing up and down the river from Maine and New Hampshire to Canada.

The town of Gorham, as noted in the history, was originally called "Shelburne Addition" and was possibly part of a land grant from King George III to seven men in 1770, who were to settle the town of Shelburne and build a road



Jacqueline Van Leuven

MEMBER PROFILE

Jacqueline Van Leuven

Born in Ware, MA, Jacqueline Van Leuven graduated from Milton High School in Milton, MA and the Rhode Island School of Design, majoring in apparel design. She began a career in fashion design in the Boston area and later married Robert Van Leuven in 1956. They had three children and today she has three grandchildren. She was the head designer at Lowell Lingerie in Lowell, MA for twenty two years and worked as a free lancer for a time developing a computerized method of designing jeans. She retired from Levi Straus in December 1997 and moved to Bethel, where she is active in the Congregational Church, the Garden Club, the Quilting Group, and the Bethel Historical Society.

A life member of the Society, she serves on the Capital Campaign and the New Year's Bethel committees, where she is very active. She also works on poster and graphics projects for Society events.

Her hobbies include quilting, gardening, golf, cross country skiing, and sewing.

(Book Review)

through the territory. Provision was also made for the allotment of a "glebe" of land for the Church of England as well as a reservation of certain pine trees for the King's Navy. Due to the topography of the area, settlement was slow. This was the northernmost grant at the time. The soil was rocky, the valley was not as wide as land to the south, and therefore less attractive for farming, and supplies had to be brought in from some distance. The first permanent white resident was Stephen Messer, who had previously lived in Shelburne. He settled in Gorham around 1805. As noted in the history, Gorham was not incorporated until 1836, and did not really grow much in size until the coming of the railroad in 1850. The decision of the Atlantic and St. Lawrence Railway to build a railroad repair shop in Gorham brought workers, both native and immigrant, to the town. The railroad also made the area easily accessible to tourists. This began the era of the building of large sea-

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sional hotels and the growth of the population to provide the services needed to accommodate visitors.

This book is well-organized around the various subjects discussed--the geography, the native flora and fauna, the civil history, and the personalities of the settlers. There are short character sketches of many of the early residents, as well as descriptions of some of the summer hotels, the schools, the churches, and the social organizations. There is also a list of businesses present in Dr. True's time.

If one is interested in genealogy, an extensive index makes it easy to find information on individuals. This reviewer found the history interesting and informative reading. In my opinion, it is a good addition to the library of those intrigued by the history of the area.

Dorothy Eichel
Gorham Historical Society
Gorham, New Hampshire

THE BETHEL SOLDIERS OF '61

(From the pages of the OXFORD ADVERTISER, 29 October 1886, compiled by Judge C.W. Whitman of Norway)

Captain Edwards wrote home from the battlefield of Crampton Pass a glowing account of the engagement, wherein he praised without stint the soldiers of his regiment, and particularly Capt. Bucknam of Co. K, who was severely wounded, and Gen'l Bartlett, his brigade commander. Nor did he forget to honorably mention the New Yorkers, and adds: "Gen'l Slocum says every soldier of these regiments is as brave as Julius Caesar."

The regiment received orders on the 17th of September to be again on the move. The success at Crampton Pass has inspired the soldiers with courage, and on the march there was no straggling. As they moved along, the sounds of the conflict at Antietam Creek, a small stream that flowed southward into the Potomac, were heard, and they knew that a great conflict was pending, which might decide the fate of the nation. The regiment was in excellent trim. There was no insubordination in the ranks, and every man was ready and willing to obey the slightest order of his superiors, and perform his full duty. They had become accustomed to the hardships of a soldier's life, and had experience on the field of battle in victory and defeat. It was such an organization of soldiers as Maine men might well be proud of.

When they had arrived within two or three miles of the battlefield, they met stragglers, stretcher bearers with the wounded, and others who hover in the rear of an army during an engagement. Usually, the reports from these are anything but encouraging to fresh troops moving as a reinforcement to the front. This was an exception however, and they were cheered with the good news that "the Rebels are giving ground."

They arrived on the field about twelve o'clock. The batteries of their division were wheeled into position, and fire promptly opened on the enemy. The solid shot flew over the field and into his lines, and back in response came shells which exploded above their heads, and grape and canister that tore through the trees of fell among them. The boom of the guns shook the earth as the fight became terrific. Two long hours it raged, and as the fire slackened, the 5th Maine and the 16th New York were ordered forward to the support of Davidson's brigade on the left of

their position. Slightly protected by a hill from the musketry of the enemy, they advanced in good order to their new position, which they held till night under a galling fire from the enemy's artillery. The severe fighting was over by this time. It had been "the bloodiest day America ever saw," but the 5th Maine was fortunate in suffering very little loss. There was none in the Bethel company. That night was a terrible one for the men. They occupied the site of the Rebel line of the morning and through the long dreary hours heard the groans and cries of the enemy's wounded. Our ambulance corps worked through all night taking care of our wounded first, and those of the Rebels who were in our lines afterward. With no blankets to cover them they finally laid down to sleep on their arms till the morning should dawn and the fight renewed. On the morrow, the wily Rebel chief asked for a truce of several hours to bury his dead, which was granted, and during the time of the cessation of hostilities, he improved to get away from the battlefield and finally across the Potomac.

The next day the 5th Maine was posted near the spot where the "gallant old hero Mansfield fell." On the 19th Capt. Edwards wrote as follows from the field of battle: "Thousands who were alive and well in our army on Tuesday night are now numbered with the dead. Lieut. Brown of the 7th is one of the number. He fell in the battle of Wednesday, fighting for his country. He is spoken of in the highest terms by his men or what is left of them. Say to his friends at Bethel that he died a hero. He was one of my best friends. I thought a great deal of him. I loved him for his bravery as I do all who are brave, and he was good and noble too. He did not change when coming into the army, he was just the same there as at home. Well may his father be proud of what he was and has done. His death has caused me more sad hours than anything that has taken place. I pity his poor mother. The 7th is badly cut into pieces. So is the 10th. Col. Beal is wounded but not dangerously. Ten or twelve of his killed are buried within five rods of where I am now writing. A number of officers of the regiment are killed. I heard that Capt. Furbish of Portland is one of the number. Yesterday I took a horse and rode over the field of battle. There was a strip of land fifty rods wide that was taken and retaken several times. It was perhaps half a mile long. The severest fighting took place here. Thousands had fallen on both sides. Forty-eight hours before the fight had raged here, but strange as it may appear, hundreds of the wounded were laying there uncared for. On one small piece of ground I counted one hundred dead. It is awful. No one can imagine the sad scenes on a battlefield after the fight is over, who has not seen it."

After the battle on the Antietam the regiment was stationed near Sharpsburg, MD, but a few miles away from the scene of the great conflict. They camped in one of the most pleasant places they had seen. During the latter part of the month the Colonel was commissioned Brig. Gen'l and Lieut. Col. Scannon was promoted to the command of the regiment. Capt. Edwards had previously been promoted to Major and was now commissioned as Lieut. Col.

On the 31st of October the regiment was again on the move toward the southward and at nightfall it camped on the Blue Ridge at Crampton Pass, the scene of their former victory. The next day the march was continued through Berlin and crossing they pitched camp once more on the sacred soil of Virginia."

(to be continued in the next issue)



Members of the Bethel League pose for the photographer on the steps of the Bethel Inn, 20 September 1915. William Bingham II is in the second row, second from the right.



William Bingham II (1879-1955) and William J. Upson (1878-1936) in Scottish costume in the Gehring House sun porch.



Dr. Gehring's patients sawing wood.



Dr. and Mrs. Gehring in front center at a St. Valentine's event at the Gehring House. William Bingham II is in the back, second from the left.

ANNUAL FUND RAISES NEAR RECORD LEVEL OF SUPPORT

The 1998 Bethel Historical Society Annual Fund Campaign raised a near record \$10,501 from 341 donors. Much appreciation is expressed to all of the following for making this essential support possible:

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EDITOR'S CORNER

The lead article in this issue features a discussion of two recent additions to the collections of the Society. They underscore the fact that our collections continue to grow, making it even more essential that we secure additional and more professional space for collection storage. We have some outstanding items in our collection, which we will be able to have greater access to when the new facility becomes a reality. We will also be able to exhibit more of them on a regular basis once our new exhibit space is secured.

Reader response to Dr. O'Brien's article in the Summer 1998 issue of the *Courier* was very enthusiastic. In fact, several people joined the Society to obtain a copy of the article. Once again, we are grateful to Dr. O'Brien for his important contribution to the history of our area.

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ory of William Farwell Family; Robert E. Wendig, Huntingdon Valley, PA, in honor of The Sunday River Inn; Erland S. & Wargaret R. Wentzell, Sebago, in memory of Stanley H. & Millie B. Wentzell; Kenneth L. & Susan K. Westercamp, Frankenmuth, MI, in memory of Enoch Bartlett; Les Whall, Salt Lake City, UT, in memory of Marzee York Whall; William W. & Nancy Stowell White, Bethel; Elizabeth Whiteman, Philadelphia, PA, in honor of Barbara H. Brown; Frederic O. & Sue L. Wight, Newry; Ruth W. Wight, Bethel, Willard A. & Sylvia B. Wight, Newry; Dennis A. & Rita Wilson, Bethel; Eleanor L. Wilson, Bryant Pond; Elizabeth C. Woronzoff, Tryon, NC, in memory of Lucia V. Wilson; Edna B. York, Bethel, in memory of Herbert I. & Maude C. Bean; Raymond E. & Dee A. York, Camarillo, CA; Robert M. & Jeanette G. York, Orrs Island; Archie L. & Jane B. Young, Bethel, in memory of Ruth and Archie Young, Sr.

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Published quarterly by the Bethel Historical Society,
 Stanley R. Howe, Editor. Please address all comments and
 inquiries to Editor, Bethel Historical Society Publications,
 Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217. Telephone (207) 824-2908 or
 1-800-824-2910. FAX (207) 824-0882
 E-Mail: history@bdc.bethel.me.us ISSN0749-9108

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Society treasurer Arlene Lowell (left) and president Walter Hatch (right) presented roses to New Year's Bethel Steering Committee volunteers Rev. Jean Bass and Vicki Rackliffe (second and third from left respectively) at a Society meeting as a token of appreciation for all their help in making the event possible. Also honored but unable to attend were Susan Isham and Robin Zinchuk.



Participants at the first annual New Year's Bethel roast marshmallows at the community bonfire on the Common. The evening also included a lighted vehicle parade, a wide variety of entertainment at four locations, an open house with life members Charlie and Edie Seashore at Bingham House, and fireworks courtesy of the Bethel Inn at midnight.

BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Bethel, Maine



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